



National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



# NASA Space Place

## Educator Newsletter

March-April 2017 / Vol. 10, Issue 2

### NEWS AND NOTES FOR FORMAL AND INFORMAL EDUCATORS

Space Place is a NASA website for elementary school-aged kids, their teachers, and their parents.

It's colorful!  
It's dynamic!  
It's fun!  
It's rich with science, technology, engineering, and math content!  
It's informal.  
It's meaty.  
It's easy to read and understand.  
It's also in Spanish.  
And it's free!

It has over 150 separate modules for kids, including hands-on projects, interactive games, animated cartoons, and amazing facts about space, Earth science, and technology.

Don't forget to subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter, the NASA Space Place Gazette!

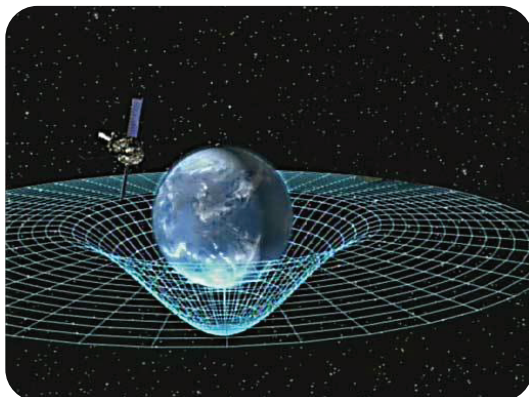
<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/subscribe>

*New!*

### What are gravitational waves?

Gravitational waves are invisible (yet incredibly fast) ripples in space. Here's how we know they exist:

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/gravitational-waves>

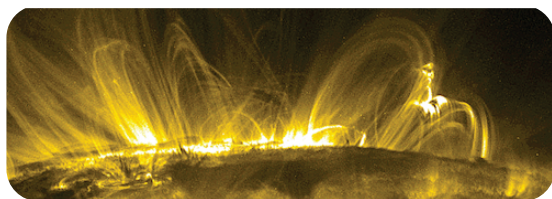


*New!*

### Sun's Corona

The corona is the outermost part of the sun's atmosphere. Its high temperatures are a bit of a mystery! Here's why:

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/sun-corona>

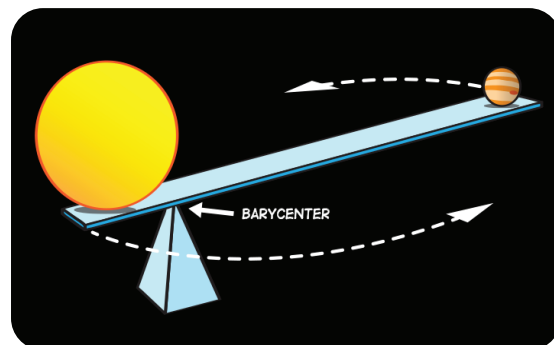


*New!*

### What's a barycenter?

We say that planets orbit stars, but that's not exactly the whole truth! Planets and stars actually orbit around their common center of mass—the barycenter. Learn more about barycenters and how they can help us find other planets outside our solar system:

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/barycenter>



### Why do we care about water on Mars?

Because on Earth, almost everywhere there is water, there is also life! If water once flowed on Mars, did life once thrive there too?

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/mars-adventure2>

### What are satellite galaxies?

They are less massive galaxies that orbit a larger galaxy. Our Milky Way has a number of satellite galaxies, but the biggest one is called the Large Magellanic Cloud!

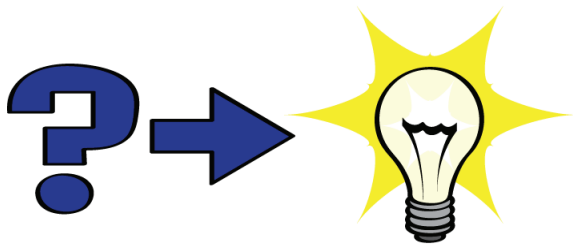
<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/satellite-galaxies>



### Science Fair

Are your kids searching for some science fair project ideas? Look no further! Click to explore various topics:

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/science-fair>



### Space and Earth Glossary

What's the difference between an asteroid and a comet? Check out our glossary to find out and explore more space and Earth terms!

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/glossary>

### Special Days

*Noteworthy days in NASA and space history you can observe in your classroom.*

#### March 13 — Uranus was discovered on this day in 1781.

Learn all about this blue planet here:

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/all-about-uranus>

#### March 14 — Albert Einstein was born on this day in 1879.

Learn about gravitational waves, which Einstein predicted over 100 years ago!

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/gravitational-waves>

#### March 20 — Today is the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere.

Why do we have seasons?

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/seasons>

#### April 22 — Happy Earth Day!

Explore Earth's atmospheric layers:

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/atmosphere>

#### April 28 — Astronomer Jan Oort was born on this day in 1900.

Learn all about the Oort Cloud that was named after him!

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/oort-cloud>

#### April 29 — Happy Astronomy Day!

Budding astronomers can learn more about our solar system here:

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/menu/solar-system>

